**REMARKS** 

Claims 1 - 12 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2

have been cancelled, and claims 3, 4, 6, 9 and 11 have been amended. No new matter has been

added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action

dated March 17, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 4 of the Office Action that

claims 7 and 8 have been allowed.

Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the indication in item 3 of the Office Action that

claims 3-6 would be allowable, if amended, to include all of the limitations of the base claim and

any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 3, 4 and 6 have been rewritten into

independent to include the features of base claim 1. Thus, new independent claims 3, 4 and 6 are

allowable and claim 5 is allowable by its dependency on claim 4.

In addition, it is respectfully the allowable features of claim 3 have been included into

independent claim 11. Therefore, it is submitted that claim 11 is also now allowable.

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As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:

claims 1, 2 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by

Takayama et al. (of record). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to independent claims 9, 10 and 12, it is respectfully submitted that

Takayama does not teach the features of claims 9, 10 and 12 concerning detecting pixel defect in

a first direction and pixel detect in a second direction different from the first direction of an

arrangement of consecutively adjoining ones of identical color and determining as fault pixels

those pixels which have been detected as defect both in the first and second directions.

Instead, Takayama discloses obtaining a mean value of peripheral pixels surrounding the

image data of the defective pixel, which is used for replacement based on the positional

information of the defective pixel. See, i.e., equations (1) - (12) set forth in cols. 14 and 15 of

Takayama, which are all concerned with obtaining a mean value, as discussed above.

In other words, the Examiner's assertion that "the correlation between the pixel to be

tested and the surrounding pixels includes correlation in both horizontal and vertical directions,"

is a mischaracterization of the teachings of Takayama and does not constitute the above-noted

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Response

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features of claims 9, 10 and 12. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection based on Takayama is

respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants

submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants

request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the

Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to

expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate

extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect

to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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